22. Stresses the need to examine to what extent the full range of Petersberg missions should be redefined to include appropriate countermeasures against international terrorism and, as necessary, to adapt the headline goal and the civilian aspects of crisis management; points out that such a redefinition should not extend to the possibility of pre-emptive strikes against third parties;

23. Calls on the Presidency to report back to Parliament's responsible committee on the experiences it will gain from the EU military exercise in May 2002 which will involve command-and-control procedures rather than troops in the field;

24. Demands that the Commission undertake, in cooperation with the Presidency, a comprehensive needs-based study on civilian crisis management capabilities, to enable the EU to define its goals in the areas of civil administration, to refine and extend its capability goals in other areas of civilian crisis management, and to ensure that identified crisis management needs can be met by coherent and concerted deployment of Member States' capabilities and Community instruments, and that these efforts are integrated with and support longer-term conflict prevention initiatives;

25. Calls further on the Presidency to report in full, in its proposed report on conflict prevention (Seville), on all progress that has been made in line with the recommendations of the Göteborg Action Plan, the Commission communication and Parliament's resolution of 13 December 2001 on conflict prevention (1), in particular, on the issues of mainstreaming of conflict prevention in all EU external relations, the involvement of international and local civil societies in activities for conflict prevention and management, and intensified cooperation with the UN and the OSCE; recalls that crisis prevention and civil crisis management are a first-pillar issue with clear responsibilities for the Commission and the European Parliament;

26. Recalls that responsibility for parliamentary monitoring of European security and defence policy is shared between the European Parliament and the national parliaments on the basis of their respective rights and duties under relevant treaties and constitutions; reiterates its view that in this perspective the WEU Parliamentary Assembly should be discontinued;

27. Notes that military expenditure and the deployment of national armed forces continue to fall within the exclusive competence of the national parliaments but that the running costs of EU joint actions for crisis management should be covered by the Community budget and therefore controlled by the European Parliament;

28. Calls therefore for closer relations and an intensified exchange of information between the European Parliament and national parliaments in relation to questions concerning the CFSP and the ESDP, in order to make more extensive dialogue between the parliaments possible;

29. Instructs its President to forward this resolution to the Commission, the Council and the governments of the Member States.

(1) 'Texts adopted', Item 15.

P5_TA(2002)0172

European defence-related industries

European Parliament resolution on European defence industries

*The European Parliament,*

- having regard to the Commission communication on ‘Implementing European Union strategy on defence-related industries’ (COM(1997) 583),

- having regard to the Capability Improvement Conference and the related European Capability Action Plan of 19 November 2001,
A. whereas EU Foreign and Defence Ministers, at the General Affairs Council meeting of 19/20 November 2001, clearly indicated the remaining deficiencies of military capabilities in the field of intelligence, logistics, communications and air transport systems,

B. whereas EU Member States spend the equivalent of about 60% of the US defence budget, but the return in military capabilities is only the equivalent of 10%,

C. considering that improvements in military capabilities can primarily be achieved by rationalising defence efforts and increasing synergy between national and multinational projects,

1. Welcomes the efforts made by the European defence industries to restructure and to rationalise; believes that these efforts should be fully supported by public bodies;

2. Reiterates its view that a strong, efficient and viable European armaments industry and an effective procurement policy are vital to the development of the ESDP;

3. Reiterates its support for the Commission’s 1997 Action Plan included in the abovementioned Commission communication and regrets that so little progress has been made in implementing this plan;

4. Calls upon the Commission to develop an updated Action Plan and submit it to the Council and Parliament as soon as possible; believes that this updated action plan should consider inter-alia:
   - the extent to which the EU’s common commercial policy and the discipline of the Single Market should be applied to the defence industries,
   - the possibility of developing a defence equivalent of the Advisory Council for Aeronautics Research in Europe so that European research in the defence field can be better pooled and coordinated,
   - what further measures are needed to facilitate the establishment of transnational companies,
   - how the integration of the industries in the accession countries can be achieved;

5. Notes that the aerospace sector has taken the lead in restructuring, but that more cooperation in the sphere of land and naval equipment is needed;

6. Believes that defence standardisation is imperative and calls for greater efforts to be made to achieve this;

7. Calls on the Member States to give greater priority to the creation of a European Armaments Agency;

8. Believes that Article 296 of the Treaty should only be invoked in matters involving significant national sensitivities;

9. Believes that the efficient application of the Code of Conduct on Arms Exports should be considered as an integrated part of the European armaments industrial policy; believes that the code should be further developed and made legally binding, and that within the post-Nice process the question of arms exports should come under Community competence, thus removing an important obstacle to EU cooperation in the field of defence industries;

10. Welcomes the progress made on the six-nation Letter of Intent process; believes that, in the long term, all Members States should be able to participate;

11. Urges Member States to give absolute priority in their defence procurement to fulfilling the capabilities requirement of the ESDP, and to ensure that special attention is paid to the requirements of the Rapid Intervention Force, which should be seen as a pilot project on this theme;
12. Calls on the Council and the Commission to maintain a dialogue with the US authorities with a view to enhancing the possibilities of trans-Atlantic consolidation and mergers;

13. Instructs its President to forward this resolution to the Commission, the Council and the governments of the Member States.

P5_TA(2002)0173

Situation in the Middle East

European Parliament resolution on the Middle East

The European Parliament,

having regard to its recommendation to the Council of 13 December 2001 on the crisis in the Middle East and the role of the European Union in the region (1), its resolution of 7 February 2002 on the Middle East (2) and its resolution of 20 March 2002 on the outcome of the European Council of 15/16 March 2002 in Barcelona (3),

A. profoundly shocked by the escalating human tragedy experienced by the Israeli and Palestinian peoples,

B. convinced that only a return to the negotiating table will restore the prospect of two States, Israel and Palestine, existing alongside each other in peace and security,

C. greatly worried by the clashes taking place at the border with Lebanon, which could spill over to the whole region,

D. whereas a continuation of the Middle East conflict represents a source of growing tension in the Arab countries and will lead to a worsening of the international political and economic situation,

1. Supports the UN Security Council’s Resolutions 1397, 1402 and 1403, which call for the withdrawal of the Israeli army from the Palestinian territories, including Ramallah; calls for their full and immediate implementation and the cessation of all violence;

2. Strongly condemns all indiscriminate terrorist attacks by suicide bombings against Israel perpetrated by Palestinian extremists; calls on the Palestinian Authority to make greater efforts to prevent acts of terrorism;

3. Condemns the military escalation pursued by the Sharon government, which violates international and humanitarian law and will provide no effective solution to the terrorist attacks, and condemns the oppression of the Palestinian civilian population by the Israeli army and the systematic destruction of infrastructures on the West Bank;

4. Makes clear to the Israeli Government that Mr Arafat, the democratically elected President of the PNA, must enjoy freedom of movement, and finds unacceptable his de facto house arrest;

5. Condemns the refusal by Prime Minister Sharon to let the EU high-level delegation meet President Arafat, and believes that the Israeli Government should take advantage of the genuine European efforts to find a solution to the crisis, including the terrorism issue; considers the offensive treatment of the EU delegation to be a turning point in EU-Israel relations;